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**Forestry – Related Assistance Programs in Hawaii:**

**Current programs and future trends**

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## INTRODUCTION

There are a number of assistance programs in Hawaii, but many qualified landowners are unaware of what these programs are, how to access them, appropriate practices, and/or current trends which may effect them. This paper outlines many of the available programs and opportunities that are available for private landowners, communities, State agencies, and private consultants in the State of Hawaii. This information will be updated as new programs are available and current programs change. If there are programs missing or you have comments, please feel free to e-mail [sheri.s.mann@hawaii.gov](mailto:sheri.s.mann@hawaii.gov) or call 808-587-4172.

The following programs are listed by the umbrella agencies that manage them.

### **USDA FOREST SERVICE COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE / STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS**

**Administered by the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry & Wildlife**

<http://www.dofaw.net/>

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**Urban & Community Forestry** - Cost-Share 50/50. Promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments across the Nation. We maintain, restore, and improve the health of urban trees, forests, green spaces and sustainable forest ecosystems. This program provides educational, technical and cost-share funding opportunities to cities, counties, schools, and community groups in urban areas. In Hawaii, funding is available from up to \$1000 to \$10,000 for cost-share projects. Matching for this program comes primarily from public and private community project in-kind contributions and labor. For State of Hawaii information see <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/kaulunani/index.htm>. For information on the national program see <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>.

**Forest Lands Enhancement Program** - Cost-Share 75 Federal 25 landowner. Provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to help private forest landowners implement their sustainable forestry management objectives. The guiding document for this program is the State Priority Plan, which was developed by the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee and DOFAW. Minor cost-share funding (<\$10,000) is available. Matching for this program comes from private landowners in-kind contributions and labor. For more information about the program in Hawaii, please see [www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hfsp/index.html](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hfsp/index.html). For more information about the National program please see <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flep.shtml>.

**Conservation Education** – Cost-Share 50/50 – This program connects people to the land by providing them with the tools they need to take informed actions related to sustaining natural and cultural resources. This program is designed to improve our communication with the larger communities of educators and the general public. Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, and Junior Forest Ranger, as part of the [National Symbols](#) program, are part of this program. For more information about conservation education efforts in Hawaii please see <http://www.dofaw.net/> For more information about the National program please see <http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/ce/index.cfm>.

**Rural Development** - Cost-Share 50/50 – This program facilitates and fosters sustainable community development, linking community assistance and resource management. In Hawaii, the focus is on woody biomass utilization. This program provides funds to continue activities associated with development of markets for underutilized hardwoods in Hawaii. Objectives are to support collaborative efforts with key partners to define and develop the program of work and implement program objectives including resource inventory, assessment of wood characteristics, examine the suitability of materials in likely product applications, and transferring findings to entrepreneurs interested in investing in wood processing facilities with the State of Hawaii. <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/eap/rca.shtml>.

**Cooperative Forest Health Protection** – This program directs and implements measures to prevent, retard, or suppress unwanted, native and nonnative invasive insects, pathogens, and plants affecting trees and forests. The primary goals are to minimize the spread of established invasive species and lessening the damages caused by native insects and diseases. We protect and improve America's forests using cutting-edge technology to rapidly respond to forest health threats. This program is committed to finding innovative ways to rapidly respond to forest health threats to avoid unacceptable loss of forest resources. [http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/forest\\_health\\_management.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/forest_health_management.shtml)

**Cooperative Forest Health Protection (Preventions & Suppression) -**

This program facilitates conducting surveys for forest insect, pathogen, and invasive plant epidemics and provides professional and financial assistance for forest insect and pathogen management on National Forests, lands managed by the Departments of Defense and the Interior, other Federal lands, and Tribal lands. Financial and technical assistance is also provided through State agencies to private forest landowners in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and current or former U.S. Trust Territories. In 1997, the first Invasive Species Committee (ISC) in Hawaii was formed on the island of Maui in response to the need for an early detection and rapid on-the-ground response to an array of incipient invasive species. In subsequent years ISCs formed on all major Hawaiian Islands: Oahu/OISC; Maui/MISC; Kauai/KISC; Big Island/BISC and Molokai/MoMISC. The ISCs are voluntary partnerships of private, government, non-profit organizations, and concerned individuals working together under a unified state-wide approach to protect each island from the negative impacts caused by invasive species. The overall goal of the ISCs is to prevent, eradicate or control priority incipient invasive plant and animal species that threaten Hawaii's most intact federal, state and private conservation lands. Each ISC has a voluntary board and chair along with a paid coordinator and staff to implement on-the-ground

## Appendix 3

work. Funding for ISC activities comes from a combination of federal, state and private sources [http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/briefs/program\\_overview.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/briefs/program_overview.html)

**Forest Legacy** – Cost-Share 75/25 – Protects private forestlands from being converted to non-forest uses. This program provides an opportunity to willing private landowners to sell fee simple, or conservation easement use-rights on their land to the State of Hawaii for the purpose of preserving or restoring uniquely forested areas. Matching for this program (25%) must come from a non-federal source in the form of contribution of land or dollars. For more information about the program in Hawaii please see <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/Legacy/index.html> For more information about the National program please see <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>.

**Fire Management Program** - The mission of the DOFAW Fire Management Program provides protection to forest reserves, natural area reserves, wildlife and plant sanctuaries and public hunting areas. DOFAW will cooperate with established fire control agencies for the protection of other wild lands not within department protection areas to the extent needed to provide for public safety. DOFAW will hold environmental damage below the level at which it would interfere with the high level, sustained yield of services and commodities from these lands. By virtue of its core mission, DOFAW plays a pivotal role in protecting the state's watersheds and unique forest resources, i.e. forest products, and threatened and endangered species. Because wildfire is a threat to Hawaii's economy, society, and natural resources, all levels of government have established fire services to guard against the ravages of uncontrolled fires. <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/fmp/default.html>. <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>.

**Firewise** - Becoming Firewise is a process. Being Firewise is not difficult, but requires commitment. A Firewise person pays attention to those details in his/her environment that might start or encourage the spread of a wildfire. <http://www.firewise.org/>  
<http://www.firewise.org/pubs/wnn/vol17/no4/pp-06.html>

**Watershed Forestry Assistance Program** - On December 3, the President signed the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). The Act contains two watershed forestry assistance programs (WFAP), which are to be administered by the secretary of Agriculture through the Chief of the Forest Service. The Forest Service is working with state forestry agency personnel and with Indian Tribes to develop separate guidelines for the state and the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Programs. Previous plans were to issue interim guidelines for both programs in October 2004. Because no program funds are included the President's FY2005 budget, there is no justification for publication of interim guidelines. For more information, contact Karen Solari, [ksolari@fs.fed.us](mailto:ksolari@fs.fed.us).

**OTHER STATE OF HAWAII  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
Administered by the Division of Forestry & Wildlife**

**State Forest Stewardship Program** - Cost-Share 50/50. The purpose of this program is to assist non-industrial private forest landowners to more actively manage their forests and related resources, and to increase the economic and environmental benefits of these lands. This program provides administrative support for the Cooperative Resource Management Forester (CRMF), as well as various nursery personnel throughout the State. The CRMF manages the State Forest Stewardship Program, which provides cost-share funding opportunities to private landowners ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000 per year, for 10 yrs, with a following 20 years of maintenance. For more information on the State of Hawaii Forest Stewardship Program - [www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hfsp/index.html](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hfsp/index.html).

**Natural Area Partnership Program** provides state funds for the management of private lands that are dedicated to conservation. This program can support a full range of management activities to protect, restore or enhance significant native resources or geological features. The program can also help provide funding for the development of long-range management plans. Contact Randy Kennedy (808) 587-0054 <http://www.dofaw.net/nars/>.

**Watershed Partnerships** are voluntary alliances of public and private landowners committed to the common value of protecting large areas of forested watersheds for water recharge and other values. Presently eight successful watershed partnerships have been established covering thousands of acres and others are in the works: East and West Maui watersheds (EMWP, WMMWP), Koʻolau watershed on Oahu (KMWP), Lanaʻi hale watershed (LWP) and East Molokaʻi watershed (EMoWP), Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership, Olaʻa Kilauea Partnership, Kohala Mountains Management Group and the Kauai Watershed Alliance. On the ground projects have focused on alien species control and fencing projects but presently the partnerships have limited funding. <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/wpp/index.html> or <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/wmp/> or [www.hawp.org](http://www.hawp.org).

**Youth Conservation Corps** – A hands on summer learning experience educating Hawaii's youth. The YCC program runs from June 14 through July 30, 2004. Members and team leaders receive a stipend and if eligible will receive three college credits upon successful completion of the program. YCC 2004 programs will be held on the islands of Oʻahu, Maui, Molokaʻi, Kauaʻi, and the Big Island. Eligible member applicants must be at least high school sophomores and no older than current college sophomores. TL applicants must be at least 21 and have completed their sophomore year in college. Member and TL applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2004. No prior experience is necessary for applicants. Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps is constantly looking for interested organizations that are willing to help develop and grow the YCC. You can also reach us by phone or fax. Our office numbers are: (808) 247-5753 OFFICE (808) 247-2115 FAX <http://www.hawaiiycc.com/program.html>.

**Safe Harbor Agreements** encourages proactive natural resource management to benefit endangered and threatened species. Provides regulatory assurances that future property-use restrictions will not be imposed if those efforts attract endangered or threatened species to their enrolled property or result in increased numbers or distributions of listed species already present. Contact Bill Standley: (808) 587-4171 <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/safeharbors/index.htm>

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## USDI FISH & WILDLIFE PROGRAMS

<http://www.r1.fws.gov/>  
[http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc\\_conpart.html](http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc_conpart.html)

National web page providing endangered species information to private landowners  
<http://endangered.fws.gov/landowner/index.html>

**Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)** – The state of Hawaii contains more biologically unique species than any other state. Unfortunately, this high level of endemism is paralleled by Hawaii also having more imperiled biota than any other state. There are currently 378 listed threatened and endangered species, 127 proposed and candidate species, and 1,085 species of concern in Hawaii. Many of these species are found on private lands in the State. Over 60% of the total land area and 50% of conservation district lands are under private ownership. The cooperation and assistance of private landowners is essential to be able to conserve and restore native flora and fauna. Recognizing the need to engage private landowners in the conservation of rare and endangered species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) implemented the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) to provide funding and technical assistance to enhance, protect, or restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands. <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/LIP/>

**Private Stewardship Grant Program** – This program supports projects that benefit species that are listed, proposed, candidates, or rare species and their habitats on private lands. It funds on-the-ground projects rather than planning, research, education, ongoing management or land acquisitions; and the projects can't be used to fulfill mitigation requirements. There is a 10% non-Federal match requirement that can be cash, in-kind services (including volunteer labor) or equipment. A state-sponsored university or conservation group can submit a proposal as long as a willing private landowner is involved. These projects compete on a regional basis; therefore the proposals should be as complete and competitive as possible. Local Hawaii contact - Naomi Bentivoglio U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Phone: 808-792-9411, Fax: 808-792-9581  
[http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc\\_psg.html](http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc_psg.html) National website  
[http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private\\_stewardship/index.html](http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/index.html)

**Recovery Land Acquisition Grants** - Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species and land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of protecting habitats essential for recovery of listed species before development or other land use changes impair or destroy key habitat values. Land acquisition is costly and often neither the Service nor the States individually have the necessary resources to acquire habitats essential for recovery of listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers in support of approved species recovery plans. Because the existing Habitat Conservation Planning grants (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants Program provides substantial funding for land acquisitions associated with HCPs, the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program will not be used to fund land acquisitions associated with permitted HCPs. More information can be found at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/grants/section6proposals/competitive.html>

**Habitat Conservation Plan** - Private landowners, corporations, state or local governments, or other non-Federal landowners who wish to conduct activities on their land that might incidentally harm (or "take") wildlife that is listed as endangered or threatened must first obtain an incidental take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To obtain a permit, the applicant must develop a *Habitat Conservation Plan* (HCP), designed to offset any harmful effects the proposed activity might have on the species. The HCP process allows development to proceed while promoting listed species conservation. The "No Surprises" regulation provides assurances to landowners participating in HCP efforts. Landowners can contact their local Fish and Wildlife Service office to determine whether a contemplated activity is likely to require an incidental take permit and to begin the application process. The Frequently Asked Questions and HCP handbook contain more details. <http://endangered.fws.gov/hcp/>

**Restoration funding and technical assistance programs** offered for Hawaii and the Pacific [http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc\\_conpart.html](http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc_conpart.html)

**A complete list of the grants offered by the USFWS** - <http://grants.fws.gov/>

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## USDA - NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** - is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** – is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>



**Conservation Innovation Grants** The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is soliciting applications for financial assistance for fiscal year 2004 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). Funds for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, will be awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process. CIG competitions will emphasize projects that have a goal of providing benefits over a large geographic area. These projects may be watershed-based, regional, multi-State, or nationwide in scope. Applications should describe the use of innovative technologies or approaches, or both, to address a natural resource conservation concern or concerns. The natural resource concerns eligible for funding through CIG are identified in the Request for Proposals.

<http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/USDA/NRCS/MD/USDA-GRANTS-032904-002/Grant.html>

**Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP)** - An offspring of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), CREP is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Unique state and federal partnerships allow you to receive incentive payments for installing specific conservation practices. Through the CREP, farmers can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible land. CREP is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. This program is in the process of being activated in Hawaii, but at the present time is not available. <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crep03.htm>

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## **United States Army Environmental Center**

**Private Lands Initiative** - The Private Lands Initiative involves a cooperative agreement between an armed service and a non-governmental organization (NGO) or a state/local agency to cost-share the purchase of land titles or conservation easements from willing land owners (at market value) to minimize incompatible use. The NGO or state/local agency purchases and manages the land titles or easements. The contact person at the US Army Environmental Center for the Private Lands Initiative is: Cynthia Bauer [Cynthia.Bauer@aec.apgea.army.mil](mailto:Cynthia.Bauer@aec.apgea.army.mil) Ph#: 410-436-4988. Website <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/natural/natural03a.html>



## TAX INCENTIVES WITH LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN HAWAII

**Native Forest Dedication on the Big Island:** Allows private landowners with a minimum of 3 acres to dedicate their land as native forest under its agricultural use categories. Native forest dedication requires that you actually have native forest. Native forest dedication under which individual landowners agree to maintain their land as 60% native plant species with 25% canopy cover in exchange for a reduced tax assessment. This is a 20-year dedication. The following link provides the forms for native forest dedication on the county web site:

[http://www.hawaiipropertytax.com/template.asp?page=Forms\\_Miscellaneous.htm&mnu=Home&submnu=forms&lftmnu=formsmisc](http://www.hawaiipropertytax.com/template.asp?page=Forms_Miscellaneous.htm&mnu=Home&submnu=forms&lftmnu=formsmisc) Call Mike McCall at 961-8260 for more information.

**State Tree Farm Program:** Chapter 186, HRS authorizes the Board of Land & Natural Resources to classify private land as tree farms, if it is suited for the sustained production of forest products in quantity sufficient to establish a business. The private property (or term lease of more than 20 years) must be ten acres or more to be eligible. A tree farm management plan must be prepared, made available to the public for 30 days, reviewed, and approved by the BLNR. Once each of these steps are completed, a management agreement is prepared by the Division of Forestry & Wildlife (\$50). The property receives a tree farm classification, and is eligible for petition to the County to qualify for a property tax assessment.

**Federal Forest Legacy Program:** Purchases conservation easement or fee simple property that allows for long-term maintenance and integrity of private forestlands. The program aims to protect forest resources by promoting active forest management and use. Eligible lands must have an imminent threat of development or fragmentation, contain one or more important public values such as critical watershed, scenic resources, public recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, known threatened and endangered species, known cultural resources, and/or opportunities for traditional forest uses, such as timber management and forest-based recreation. More details about the program, common questions, and how the program may provide tax incentives can be obtained from the State Forester.

<http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/Legacy/index.html>

**Cost-Share Exclusion (Improvements):** Code Sec. 126 (e) Exclusion from income.

<http://www.timbertax.org/research/irc/subchB/sec126.asp>

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## SOME LAND TRUSTS

**The Nature Conservancy** – The mission of the Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the land and waters they need to survive. We have developed a strategic, science-based planning process, called Conservation by Design, which helps us identify the highest-priority places—landscapes and seascapes that, if conserved, promise to ensure biodiversity over the long term. In

other words, Conservation by Design allows us to achieve meaningful, lasting conservation results. <http://nature.org/>

**The Trust for Public Lands** – The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, non-profit land conservation organization, and in 1997, we're proud to celebrate our 25th year of conserving land for people. Since TPL was founded in San Francisco in 1972, it has grown from a small group of people concerned with preserving the Marin headlands just north of San Francisco to an organization of more than 200 dedicated people in 24 offices across the mainland. TPL and these local groups work with private and corporate landowners, community groups, cities and towns, and public agencies at the State and Federal levels. We strive to find ways that let us all work together, achieve our conservation goals, and see that many of America's most special places are preserved. Our mission statement is simple: to conserve land for people. The work, however, is complex, challenging, and rewarding. In 25 years more than 1 million acres of land, valued in excess of \$1.2 billion dollars, have been protected by TPL with the help and partnership of organizations much like the Maui Open Space Trust, for you, me, our neighbors, families and children. <http://www.bestofmaui.com/tplhawaii.htm>

**Maui Coastal Land Trust** – The mission of the Maui Coastal Land Trust is to acquire, preserve, and protect coastal lands in Maui Nui (i.e., the islands of the County of Maui) for the integrity of the natural environment and the enjoyment of current and future generations. **MCLT has three main goals -Goal 1: Operations** To establish a strong community-based organization with diversified sources of financial support. **Goal 2: Public Awareness** Educate and build alliances with landowners, developers, community groups, government agencies, the business community, and visitors. **Goal 3: Land Conservation** Institute a program to successfully acquire, preserve, and protect selected parcels of coastal land. <http://www.mauicoastallandtrust.org/index.html>

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## RELATED LINKS

**Pacific Islands Lands Institute** This Guide provides information on private initiatives that can assist landowners and communities in their efforts to manage, conserve, and preserve agricultural land, rural landscapes, open space, historic sites, and natural and cultural resources on privately held land in Hawaii. These options and approaches are available to large and small landowners and community groups. They also make good economic sense because they can reduce taxes, protect land from forced estate tax sales, keep land within families, and sustain Hawaii's landscapes. [http://www.pilipacific.org/conservation\\_options/consr\\_options.html](http://www.pilipacific.org/conservation_options/consr_options.html)

**Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs** - <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>

**Various Hawaiian related links -**

<http://web.hawcc.hawaii.edu/hawcc/forestteam/ListLinksPane.htm>